

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINIST NEWSLETTER
December, 1979

"Maine Lesbian Feminist was organized at a workshop at Gay Symposium III. The purpose of the organization was, and still is, to provide a base for support, consciousness raising, and political action. Also, a celebration for Lesbians throughout the State of Maine". C.H.

MINUTES FROM Nov. 17 MEETING

Scribe - Deb S.

There was a sizeable gathering at Connie's house in Skowhegan, Sat. Nov. 13. The day started with greetings & pot luck lunch. The afternoon included a sexuality workshop, and general meeting. Several Q then traveled to the Gay Symposium meeting in Augusta, & were joined later by more Q at the Eastside for dancing.

General Meeting Notes:

A. Reports

- 1-Newsletter - The newsletter is now being run off on our new copier at the Susan B. Anthony Club (SBA). There is presently no set deadline for the newsletter (NL) due to volunteer's free time schedule. Policy for subscriptions needs to be set. There will be a NL workshop at the next MLF meeting run by Cathy to resolve the issue.
- 2-Treasury -
 - a) General Fund--same as last month
 - b) Savings account--closed out, the \$27.50 balance used to help pay for copier.
 - c) Newsletter fund--\$213.95 new balance (\$ for copier withdrawn).

B. Old Business

- 1-People interested in Power Ceremony (at next meeting) were requested to sign up in advance. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
- 2-Mary may begin her photo-tour earlier than planned. Any single, rural Q wishing to be photographed should contact Mary within the month. Phone 968-2117.

C. New Business

- 1-MLF involvement in the Gay Symposium was discussed. Several suggestions were made: 1) someone from MLF to attend Symposium meetings 2) MLF table set up at Symposium 3) have an MLF workshop at the Symposium. Several sale items were suggested: 1) buttons (we have access to a button machine) 2) T-shirts, several Q are looking into the possibilities. People with design ideas are encouraged to bring them to the next meeting. It was decided to have a symposium workshop at the next MLF meeting to determine our actions.
- 2-New Year's Party was talked over and set for Sat. night Dec. 30 at the SBA club. The suggested donation of \$2.00 will help pay costs. MLF will pick up the rest of the tab. People are encouraged to bring food to share. The booze policy is BYOB. Jean, JJ, and Anita will bring set-ups, soda, & ice to sell for those interested. Several Q are checking into the possibilities of having entertainment.
- 3-Next meeting: It was decided to hold the next meeting on either Dec. 15 or 16. Marjorie had mentioned she wished to host the meeting in Cundy's Harbor.. someone is checking with her. Otherwise, it will be at the SBA Club. Workshops will include Newsletter (NL) Symposium, Power Ceremony, Power workshop, and Mother's support group.

D. Announcements

- 1-A lesbian task force in NOW is being formed. For info write: NOW Box 4012 Station A, Portland, Me. 04101
- 2-Hard liquor at OneWay: There has been a report that liquor was found in a soda can. Recovering alcoholics should beware -- check your soda before drinking.
- 3-A lesbian custody case needs resources: Anyone with info or referrals should write the NL.
- 4-The Orono Lesbian Support Group meets 5pm Wed. at the Office of Q's Programs, Fernald Hall.
- 5-Gay-Straight Allianane (orono) will meet Nov. 28, 6:30pm at the Maine Christian Association.
- 6-MLF is now on the mailing list for the University Q's Forum.
- 7-Any lesbians in the Lewiston/Auburn area? Write Anita, 569 Riverside Drive, Auburn 04210.

DECEMBER's MLF Meeting - Sunday Dec. 16 at Marjories in Cundy's Harbor

AGENDA

- 10 Motherhood workshop (sorry, we had a description but it's lost! Will try next month to have the description. This is an ongoing workshop)
- 11:30-1 Lunch & Hellos
- 1-2 Newsletter Policy
- 1-2 Power Ceremonies
- 2-3 Gay Symposium (what do we want to do there, table, workshop, etc.)
- 3- General meeting
- 5- Pot Luck Supper

DIRECTIONS

From the South: From Portland take Rt. 295 to Rt. 1 Bath-Brunswick Coastal Route. Go towards Brunswick about 1 1/2 miles. Sign overhead Rt. 1 to Bath. Take Rt. 1 to Cooks Corner. At Cooks Corner take Rt. 24 going to Orrs and Baileys Is., turn left at Cundy's Harbor Rd, exactly 4.3 miles from Cooks Corner. Go 4 miles, pass pond on your right. My house is 2nd house on right, past the pond. White house, semi-circle driveway.

From the North: Take 95 (not the turnpike). Get off at Brunswick exit. Take Rt. 1 towards Bath. Get off at Cooks Corner-same directions as from South. Call Marjorie at 725-6928 if you need to.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

An Open Letter to All MLF -- Nov. 12, 1979

Dear MLF Sisters,

Once again I feel a need to express and make clear to the readers of the MLF Newsletter what should have been printed in the last Newsletter instead of what was, under;

"Minutes from Oct. 20, meeting--3 Sec. B"

"There is a police harrasment problem in Portland--police are watching drunk sisters the hardest so we need to help keep these Q out of their view. Encourage drunk or fighting lesbians to stay off the streets".

What should have been reported:

"There is a police harrasment problem in Portland, as there is everywhere, to lesbian Q and Q in general. The police are apt to focus upon a lesbian Q leaving the bar area, or in the bar area (and/or a lesbian couple) in public view.

It was felt and agreed by the Q at the general meeting that if this being the case, it is our responsibility to help aid our sisters and whenever possible to help prevent any such thing from happening to our sister(s) in the first place. Several Q agreed (if not all) that we should not turn our backs upon our sisters.

NOW is forming a Lesbian Task Force. Q interested in being part of it or wanting to be on the mailing list write:

Lesbian Task Force, N.O.W., P.O. Box 4012 Station A Portland 04101

Part 2 of Sec. B should have read:

The Greater Portland Chapter of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.) has offered any help, aid, support, etc. to The Maine Civil Liberties Union (M.C.L.U.) in reference to sisters who have been arrested and/or harrassed by the police. Q are encouraged to report any incident to M.C.L.U. in seeking help to take action against Police harrasment. You can contact Jean Sampson-774-5444, 97 Exchange St., Portland

I would like to suggest that a newsletter policy be made by MLF members and that names be withheld unless the person(s) gives their permission to be printed, be it first/last name or both.

In Sisterhood,
Janice

THE MAINE NUCLEAR REFERENDUM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

A group of men and Q here in Maine are involved in gathering 37,500 valid signatures in order to put the nuclear power question on referendum for next year's ballot. This is a very specific and direct process in which we can appeal to the Maine residents in a non-threatening way, for at this point they're not forced to take a stand for or against nuclear power. We're giving them a choice whether they want to have it in our state or not. We've been active since our July 4 March from Wiscasset to Augusta and our deadline on the signatures is late February. We are pushing hard at this point to get people involved during this last vital stretch. After February when we make our quota, we will be turning to educational

measures in order that come November, 1980, people will be informed enough of the hazards and economical disadvantages of nuclear power to vote it down. We have a difficult time ahead of us. If anybody wants more info on the petition drive or who to contact in your area, PLEASE don't hesitate to write to me: Sparky 138 Park Ave Apt 4 Portland, Me 04101 or call 774-1698 Work with us for a Nuclear-Free Maine!!

Lesbian Periodicals project

"We are trying to get more info about, to locate, and to secure copies of a shortlived Maine lesbian periodical called: Uva Ursi, a funky downhome lesbia journal stores pictuas pomes how to dos. Our source of information lists its address as RFD, Robbinston, Me. and the first issue came out in 1974". If you know anything else about Uva Ursi please contact Clare Potter, 122 Oxford St. Apt 2B, Cambridge Mass., 02138.

***A support group for Q has just begun at the Cutler Health center (Orono). It is being co-sponsored by the Counseling Center and OWPS and meets on Mondays from 3:00-4:30. For more info, call Melanie Terbouie at 581-7128, Office of Q's Programs and Services

***Have you been assaulted or raped on the UMO or BCC campuses? The Office of Q's Programs and Services Coordinator, Ellen Weissman, is keeping a file of these or similar situations such as sexual harrassment from professors or peers. If this has happened to you, please call 581-2560 and let Ellen know where and when the assault or rape took place. We need to know how often this is happening. All names will be kept confidential. Please call if this has happened to you or someone you know". Office of Q's Programs and Services

***The Greater Bangor N.O.W. will be holding a Happy Holidays Get Acquainted Party, Friday, Dec. 14th at 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer, Me (Take Parkway South past the High School, across the RR tracks, the Strip is on your left. #87 is a green house on the right, identifiable by the blinking (sexist) Santa!) \$1.00 donation will include food, drink, good company, childcare, Q's music, dancing and a chance at the door prize. The excitement begins at 7:30 and we'd love to have everyone attend. Hope to see you there! For more info call: Melody - 683-5252 or JoAnne - 942-2830.

***Announcing an afternoon workshop-Foot Massage For Q. Saturday, Dec. 11-4 p.m. \$10.00 For more info and to register call Helena, 359-2026. There will be another workshop sometime in January at the SBA club. Will be announced in the Newsletter.

REQUEST FROM THE NEWSLETTER STAFF*****

Please send your thoughts or any information that you wish to share. We put the Newsletter together the last week of every month so send info before that time. Got any poems, stories, etc?? Send to: MLF Newsletter, P.O. Box 125, Belfast, Maine 04915

PUBLICATIONS

***"Off Our Backs" a Q's news journal - 1724 20th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009 \$7/yr.

***"Heresies: A Feminist Publication on Art and Politics" 4 issues at \$11/yr. Write to: Heresies, Box 766, Canal Street Station, NY, NY 10013

***"The Second Wave" a magazine of the ongoing feminist struggle. 4 issues, \$6/yr. Write to The Second Wave, Box 344, Cambridge A, Cambridge, Ma 02139

***"Sisters United" A new lesbian/feminist magazine that's unique, educational, inspiring. For free sample copy write: Sisters United, 118 W Sparks, Galena, KS 66739

****DATES TO REMEMBER****

Dec. 15 - Sat - Planning Session for Maine Gay Symposium VII, in Augusta at UMA at 1:00 pm. Bring all thoughts, hopes and ideas to share.

Dec. 29 - Sat - MLF's NEW YEARS PARTY will be held at 8:00 pm at the Susan B. Anthony Club in Belfast. There will be setups available and maybe some entertainment!! BYOB

THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY CLUB

This is a club for ♀ identified ♀. It was created with the intention of getting cultural, social & educational events happening in Maine for ♀. So, if you want something to happen & keep happening, help by supporting the place or by using the space for ♀'s events. Write to Susan B. Anthony Club, c/o MLF P.O. Box 125, Belfast, Maine 04915.

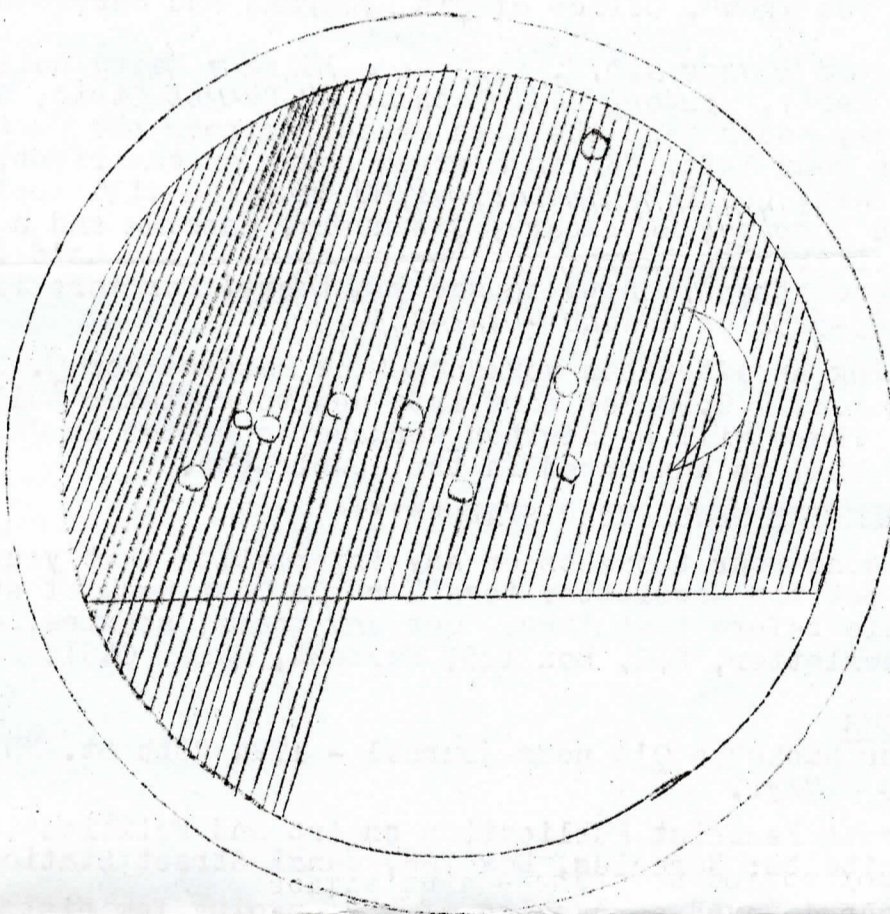
DIRECTIONS: Located in downtown Belfast, above the Grasshopper Shop on Main Street. Enter the door to the right of the Grasshopper, go up to the third floor, go left and you are there!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- Sun. Dec. 2 - Poetry Reading 3:00 p.m.
- Sun. Dec. 9 - Film/Discussion series. Dear Inspector will be shown. It is a comedy, mystery, featuring a ♀ detective in the Parisian police force! Philip de Broca (King of Hearts) is the director. It is a funny movie, but it is saying something about changing roles of ♀ in a particularly sexist society.
- Sat. Dec. 29 - MLF's NEW YEARS PARTY. Every ♀ welcome, come and celebrate a new year together!!

AND DON'T FORGET THE WINTER SOLSTICE. REMEMBER TO CELEBRATE IT!



MLF NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

MLF needs your \$5.00 (our yearly subscription rate) in order for us to continue the Newsletter. It costs money to send it out so please contribute as much as you can, if not \$5. All contributions are more than welcome and needed. Thank you!!

Send to: MLF
P.O. Box 125
Belfast, Me 04915

Checks made payable to MLF
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